

FEB 28 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE MANDATORY LABELING OF CARBON MONOXIDE
OR GAS TREATED RAW FISH.

1 WHEREAS, it is a priority of the Legislature to promote,
2 support, and protect the health of the State's residents and
3 visitors; and
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5 WHEREAS, in some cases, raw fish is treated with carbon
6 monoxide or gas to prevent oxidation and retain its color; and
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8 WHEREAS, the carbon monoxide used on raw fish binds with
9 hemoglobin to prevent the flesh of the fish from turning from
10 red to brown to gray; and
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12 WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration has
13 deemed carbon monoxide treated fish as "generally recognized as
14 safe"; and
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16 WHEREAS, the European Union, Canada, and Japan have banned
17 the use of carbon monoxide as a color stabilizer in fish because
18 carbon monoxide or gas treated fish can mask the visual evidence
19 of spoilage; and
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21 WHEREAS, researchers of the Food Science and Human
22 Nutrition Department of the University of Florida found that
23 carbon monoxide or gas treated raw fish can look fresh while
24 hiding an underlying health hazard; and
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26 WHEREAS, there is currently no requirement that carbon
27 monoxide or gas treated raw fish be labeled to reflect the use
28 of carbon monoxide or gas; and
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30 WHEREAS, raw fish treated with carbon monoxide or gas may
31 potentially mislead the public in the determination of the
32 fish's freshness because the carbon monoxide will preserve the
33 color of the fish, but not its quality; and



WHEREAS, the labeling of carbon monoxide or gas treated raw fish can keep the public informed about the risk of spoilage that carbon monoxide or gas can mask in raw fish; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, that this body expresses its support for the mandatory labeling of carbon monoxide or gas treated raw fish; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY:

Mel R
James H. Lee
Ross R
Hanna Tuck
Shianne Chun Oallard
Yee Chang
Will Eyo

